



Young advisers for a new, 3-year grants programme

The Listening Fund – Phase Two

The Listening Fund (www.thelisteningfund.org) is recruiting 10 young people to help us spend £300,000 over the next three years. We want to work with you to make organisations and systems more accountable to young people and we will pay you for your time and expertise.

Key tasks:

This work will be yours to shape, but it will include:

- Designing a grant-making strategy to spend at least £300,000 in accordance with The Listening Fund's aims and values (listed at the end of this document)
- Reviewing grant applications and helping us to decide which applications are successful
- Supporting our learning by helping us choose an organisation to lead this work and sharing your reflections with them
- Talking to our partners about your insights into the youth sector, and potentially speaking about the Fund at external events.

Background

During the first phase of The Listening Fund (2018-2020), we supported 22 organisations across England to improve how they listened to young people. You can read about their work – including some case studies – on The Listening Fund website under ‘What We Have Learnt’.

For Phase Two, we want young people to help us go further. We will give you the resources to invest in work which you think will improve accountability to young people, and we will support you throughout. We want you to contribute to other conversations too, about how philanthropy works and who gets to inform and take decisions.

We are therefore seeking up to 10 individuals aged 18-25 to become our Young Advisory Panel. We are looking for individuals who have views on:

- how to make organisations and systems more accountable to young people
- what support young people need to take their ideas around improved accountability further
- what role (if any) existing organisations and systems could/should play in this work.

The panel of 10 young people will be supported by an experienced, independent facilitator as well as the Blagrave Trust team and you will be paid for your time as well as associated travel costs. We are completely committed to ensuring that you succeed in this role and that it is a fun, interesting and learning experience which also supports your own development.

Who we are looking for

We want to hear from young people who are:

- Curious and imaginative, with a vision for what meaningful accountability to young people could look like
- Able to communicate your own views and actively listen to those of others, where necessary discussing to come to a consensus
- Able to ask probing questions, with an open mind
- Empathetic and able to understand different people's backgrounds, personal values and objectives, even where you do not share them
- Reliable and committed to attending and contributing to panel meetings.

We want this work to be informed by a diversity of opinion, experience and expertise and we will actively seek to recruit a panel which can provide that. We are committed to making the opportunity accessible and will offer the support needed to make it inclusive.

Pay and terms

As this is a skilled role, we will be paying young advisers £20 per hour.

Advisers will work on a self-employed basis. This means you will have to invoice the Blagrave Trust based on the hours you have worked and to an agreed schedule to make this as easy as possible. This might have implications for you in terms of your statutory support and/or tax liabilities and we can offer access to guidance on this if needed.

Time frame and time commitment

The project runs from Spring 2021 until Spring 2024. We are looking for young people keen to commit for the period, although of course we know that life changes and that may not be possible for everyone.

The time commitment will vary with the demands of the work. At some points, we anticipate weekly meetings; at other points meetings might be monthly. We will give you good notice of what is required and all meetings will fit around work i.e. they will take place on weekends or in the evenings or over lunch.

We anticipate that the first year of the work will be quite time intensive – we will want to share lots of information with you and give you plenty of space to discuss and design the funding strategy. Much of this will need to take place in the Spring and Summer of 2021 and our best estimate is that we will need c.65 hours of your time in Year One. Towards the end of the first year, we will work with the panel to scope out Years 2 and 3 and agree an approach and time commitment which suits the majority of young advisers.

We anticipate that meetings will be a mixture of online and in-person according to need and the situation with Covid-19.



Contact

If you have any questions about being an adviser, you can get in touch with Edd Fry, The Listening Fund Manager. Email edd.fry@blagravetrust.org to arrange a phone call or Zoom.

Once you're ready to apply, we need to know why you're the right person for this role. So please send Edd an email explaining why you want to be on the panel and what skills and experience you could offer. Please attach your CV too – and make sure that your CV includes all relevant experience, whether it is voluntary or paid, through an organisation or something that you've done by yourself. Alternatively, you can send the same information in a video. If you would like to express your interest in another way, please contact Edd to discuss.

Please apply by Friday 30th April 2021.



The aims and values of The Listening Fund Phase Two

(please note: these are draft aims and values which the panel will have a role in finalising once in post)

- To drive greater accountability to young people by:
 - Supporting adult-led organisations to improve their listening practices and share what they learn across the sector;
 - Supporting funders to review their listening practices and cultures, and;
 - Providing young people with the power and resources to fund the work that they believe is required to improve accountability.

Values of The Listening Fund

- We believe young people's experience and expertise should be listened to, respected by and acted upon by the entire sector
- We are ambitious about empowering young people, giving them greater agency and removing the need for them to secure permission to raise their voice
- We commit to learning and to sharing what we learn, influencing others where we can
- We believe collaboration with other funders, young people and other stakeholders is a key component in achieving social change
- We are transparent about our work and decision-making
- We recognise that experimentation is a key part of achieving change, and that whilst not all experiments will be successful, they will all give opportunities to learn and improve.
- We believe in trusting our partners and working with them in a trusting manner, making sure our grant application, administration and reporting processes are light-touch and straightforward.